

Town Manager's Office Town of Mansfield

Below please find a report regarding various items of interest to the Town Council, staff and the community:

Council Business

- *Budget & Finance Retreat* – We have rescheduled our annual budget and finance retreat with the Town Council to Saturday, February 7, 2015. At the meeting we will review the Town's current financial position, as well as the status of the preparation of the proposed operating budget and capital improvement program for FY 2015/16. We will meet from 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM in the Council Chamber.
- *Funding for Area Daycare Centers* – Included in your [packet](#) are the communications we have received regarding the request from three area daycare centers asking the Town to replace funding from the University of Connecticut. As requested by Council, the Mayor and I will include this item on the agenda for your next regular meeting scheduled for February 9, 2015.
- *Funding for Mansfield Advocates for Children (MAC) Initiatives* – [Item #11](#) in your meeting packet is a letter from Director of Human Services Patricia Schneider regarding MAC's efforts to obtain our legislative support for program activities. Please let know if have any questions regarding this correspondence.
- *Workshop on Four Corners Sanitary Sewer Project* – Staff will reschedule the workshop on the Four Corners Sanitary Sewer project for 6:00 PM on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 in the Council Chamber. At that session we will provide an update on the status of the design of the project, the steps necessary to receive the \$3 million state grant as well as other project-related information.

Department Reports

- *Town Manager's Office* – I wish to acknowledge our dedicated staff who responded to Blizzard Colbie or Winter Storm Juno. Some specific contributions include:
 - Emergency Management staff worked around the clock monitoring weather and information from the State Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS), coordinating local response efforts, and providing updates to key town staff. Staff made plans for a shelter (if needed) and set up and operated the Town's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) staffed by Emergency Management, Public Works, Fire and Police personnel to ensure proper coordination of situation response. Public information regarding preparedness and safety was distributed via CodeRed, press release, town website, Facebook, and 211. Additionally, staff prepared for the activation of the Medical Reserve Corps by reaching out to CL&P's EOC liaison, Jensen's, Juniper Hill, Natchaug, and the Eastern Highlands Health District, as well as the local amateur radio contact to prepare for emergency communications. In addition, staff contacted our locally certified Citizen Emergency Response Team (CERT) to discuss potential activation, and conducted a conference call with Ashford, Coventry, Mansfield and Willington Emergency Management Directors to ready cooperative sheltering and sharing of resources, if needed.
 - Public Works staff began snow removal efforts at 11:00 p.m. on Monday, January 26th and worked through the night to keep roads passable to emergency vehicles (one lane). The snow removal crew for this storm consisted of 19 personnel, which represents all but one person assigned to the Operations Division (1 groundskeeper was on vacation and could not get back to Connecticut due to cancelled flights). Equipment used during the storm included: 9 five-yard dump trucks, 6 pickup trucks, 3 front end bucket loaders, 2 skid steers, and 1 tool cat tractor. The crew kept the roads open and worked until 6 PM, Tuesday January 27, 2015, when they were sent home to get a good rest. However, two personnel were kept on-site at the Public Works garage to respond to any overnight emergencies; there were none. The entire crew (19 personnel) reported for work Wednesday January 28, 2015 at 4 AM, to widen their routes, where needed, and to remove any overnight drifts. Staff continues to work on eliminating sight line issues at intersections, removing snow from Storrs Center, clearing walkways and sidewalks, and widening plowed areas of roadways where needed.
 - Facilities Management staff committed a total of 190 hours of regular time and 10 hours of overtime in storm clean-up operations on January 27-28, 2015. Using plow trucks, snow

blowers, tractors and salt, the department completed two rounds to clean up after the storm: the first round on January 27th to remove the bulk of the snow off of the sidewalks and the second round on January 28th to re-clear sidewalks and to clear playgrounds at schools.

- *Parks and Recreation, Skate Park Update* – The Town officially opened its Skate Park in September of 2009. At the time, we installed a limited amount of modular skate park equipment due to funding limitations. Our major fund-raiser, Michael Taylor, has worked with staff to obtain commitments from the Ossen Foundation and the Foster Foundation to assist with the purchase of the remaining equipment for the skate park. I will keep you informed of our progress with this initiative.

Major Projects and Initiatives

- *CL&P Interstate Reliability Project* - Work in Mansfield this week will include the removal of wood mats in the vicinity of Highland Road. Weekly construction updates can be found at www.NEEWSprojects.com. Residents can also call 1-866-99NEEWS (1-866-996-3397) or email NEEWS@NU.com for more information.
- *Mansfield Tomorrow* – Learn about the proposed Plan of Conservation and Development at one of our upcoming meetings or view the January 15th presentation on-line.
 - Open House on Saturday, January 31, 2015, 10 am – 12:30 pm, Buchanan Center Auditorium, Mansfield Public Library, 54 Warrentonville Road, Mansfield
 - Community Information Meeting on Thursday, February 5, 2015, 7:00 p.m., Cafeteria, Mansfield Middle School, 205 Spring Hill Road

Miscellaneous

- *CL&P Rate Increase* – CL&P has reported that higher electricity prices are an impending reality across the New England region this winter and likely for several more winters. For more information about why this is happening and what you can do to prepare, visit www.nu.com.

Upcoming Events

- *Storrs Center Stroll* – On Saturday, February 7, 2015, the UConn Alumni Association is hosting its first “Storrs Center Stroll” from 1:00 pm to 5:00 PM. This event is free and open to the public and is part of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership’s [Winter Fun Week](#). Enjoy samples from businesses, giveaways, UConn performing groups, special guests including Jonathan XIV, family-friendly activities, and more. This event is free, but [pre-registration](#) is encouraged. Walk-ins are also welcome. Please visit <http://uconnalumni.com> for more information.
- *Storrs Farmers Market* – Storrs Winter Farmers Market will be open two Saturdays a month from 3:00 – 6:00 PM at the Mansfield Public Library. The remaining Winter Market dates are: January 31, February 14 and 28, March 14 and 28, and April 4 and 18. Everything sold at Storrs Farmers Market is grown or produced in Connecticut. Visit www.storrsfarmersmarket.org for more information.
- *Winter Fun Week* - The Mansfield Downtown Partnership invites residents to shake off those winter blues and head downtown for Winter Fun Week: Sunday, February 1 through Saturday, February 7, 2015. This program highlights a wide range of activities and events taking place in Downtown Storrs. There are events for children, adults, families, and students. Some are free, some require tickets, and all are fun! For the full listing of events, please visit <http://winterfunweek.wordpress.com>.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Inland Wetland Agency/Planning and Zoning Commission, February 2, 2015, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Special Town Council Meeting, February 3, 2015, 6:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children Executive Council, February 4, 2015, 5:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

- Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors, February 5, 2015, 4:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Playground Committee, February 5, 2015, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Special Town Council Meeting, February 7, 2015, 8:30 AM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Finance Committee, February 9, 2015, 6:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, February 9, 2015, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

**Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the [Town Calendar](#) or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 860-429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*